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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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INT 430/1

TO : FE - Mr. ~~Butterworth~~  
FE - Mr. ~~Panfield~~  
FROM : NA - Mr. Bond

295

DATE: March 26, 1948

SUBJECT: CIA Report on Current Situation in Korea

Your attention is called to the attached CIA study on the current situation in Korea. You will note from the distribution list on the inside back cover that this report enjoys top level distribution, from the President and the Secretary of State on down.

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You will note further that it is stated at the bottom of the summary on page one that this report has received the concurrence inter alia of the Intelligence organization of the Department of State. This raises two points. In the first place, it is not strictly true that this report in its present form received the concurrence of the Division in the State Department (DRF) to which it was sent for clearance. In the second place, although this study concerns itself with questions relating to current and future policies of the United States with respect to Korea, no attempt was made by CIA to clear it with FE or NA, the Office and Division responsible for the formulation of those policies.

NA saw this report in draft form only by virtue of the fact that DRF, on its own responsibility, requested our views on it prior to giving State Department clearance. We pointed out to DRF at that time several respects in which we felt the report was either inaccurate or drew unwarranted conclusions, and suggested that they pass our comments on to CIA; in addition, we suggested that DRF express to CIA, as its own, the view that reports of this nature, if they had to be produced at all by CIA, should in all cases be cleared with the responsible political divisions of this Department. A perusal of this study reveals that few, if any, of the changes suggested by us through DRF have been incorporated therein. Two examples of statements to which we took exception are marked in red pencil on page two of the report, and are, I think, self-explanatory.

Although there would appear to be no grave divergencies in this report from a policy point of view, there

are several

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FE - Mr. Butterworth and Mr. Penfield

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are several respects in which its conclusions are scarcely consistent with those of the paper approved yesterday by the SANACC for transmission to the National Security Council and the President. Even if it were entirely consistent with that paper, however, that circumstance would not vitiate what seems to me the principle involved, which is that an agency such as CIA which has no policy-making functions or responsibilities should not be permitted to send up to the top policy-making officials of the Government, without thorough and formal clearance with the appropriate political officers of this Department, a study such as this which, to say the very least, has policy implications.

Attachment:

CIA Report, copy no. 65

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